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FLOOR DEBATE

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It was on the last bill. I'm sorry. (Laughter)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Okay. Senator Don Pederson, on this bill? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Connealy, if I could ask you a question? The fee is capped at \$750, which is actually its current cap, is that right?

SENATOR CONNEALY: (Microphone malfunction.) Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, how much...have they been levying considerably less than that, or where are they, and what...what have they been charging people?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Under current situation with the law, only a few contractors have been paying the fee. It's been only I think seven who would do it, and they aren't actually the ones that were intended under the beginning of the bill. This...the bill was written to register operations that had migrant workers, and what it did is actually caught just detassellers that had kids working with them, and so it really wasn't catching who it was. What we did...we tried to do was set the fee by rules and regs. If they need the \$750, we will do that, but, hopefully, under the rewrite of the bill, it will capture more of those workers and we may not need that fee, but if they do, it will go up to \$750.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But that's enough to run the program currently? Or is the program actually being funded out of other funds somehow?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Currently, there is very little enforcement of the program and very little activity in the program. They actually did get no registrations west of, I think, Kearney, where we...where, traditionally, most of those migrant workers are. So we believe that if we could set the fee lower and have more enforcement, that it would actually be able to have more of those workers registered, more of the operations, so that...we aren't sure how...how much money they are going to need, but we're assuming that somewhere under \$750 will be enough to run